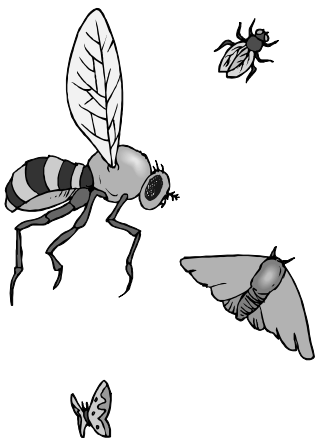




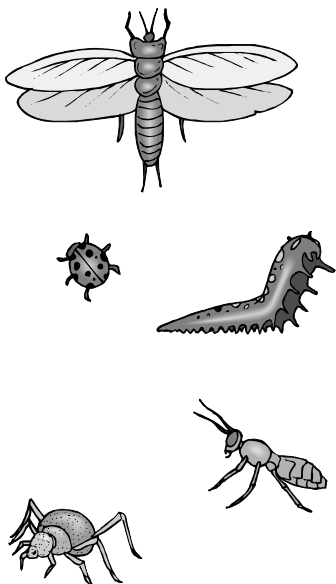
Controlling Insects



After a natural disaster, especially one involving flooding, mosquitoes, flies and other insects may be more abundant than usual, posing potential health problems. Filth and debris left by the storm create excellent breeding conditions for house flies and mosquitoes, some of which may be capable of spreading typhoid, dysentery and encephalitis.

To control insects it is important to remove their breeding places (any standing water, especially stagnant water). In warm weather this should be done immediately after you return to the premises.

Eliminate Breeding Spots



- Empty water from barrels, old tires, cans and other vessels (This water may also be polluted by floodwaters and may be a health hazard, in addition to being a breeding place for insects.).
- Check clogged gutters and flat roofs with poor drainage.
- Cover cisterns, cesspools, septic tanks, fire barrels and rain barrels tightly.
- Wherever possible, drain ponds, pools, or any standing water in which mosquitoes may breed.
- If drainage is impossible, treat standing water puddles with larvicide oil as recommended by a County Extension Agent.
- Dispose of refuse.
- Bury animal carcasses as soon as possible.
- Bury or burn garbage at least once a week.
- Be sure garbage cans have tightly fitting lids.
- Spread manure and garbage used as fertilizer thinly to dry quickly and not breed flies.
- Clean up debris. In some climates, scorpions may seek refuge in and around buildings during flood conditions. During the day they hide beneath loose stones, loose bark of fallen trees, boards, piles of lumber, and within walls of buildings.

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Document DH-045,
IFAS Disaster Handbook for
Extension Agents (developed
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Service for the benefit of
Florida's citizens)

Repair

Patch screens and other places where mosquitoes enter buildings. Paint screens with an insecticide solution recommended by your Extension Agent.

Spray

Use a household spray or an aerosol bomb to kill mosquitoes, flies or other insects that get into buildings. Do not apply oil-based sprays to flowers or ornamental plants. Spray shrubbery and shaded areas of buildings to kill adult insects. Contact your County Extension Agent for specific recommendations.

Use Repellant

Stay indoors, especially in the evening. Persons who must go outside at dusk should use a repellent on exposed parts of the body and clothing.